

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

JANUARY 2006

100 YEARS

2006 Trout Guide



Colonel W. Gerald Massengill

Interim Director

I'm pleased to start the new year off with an invitation to visit the Department's newest public lands and boating access sites. Over the last few months we acquired one new Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and expanded another. In addition, boaters will be thrilled to learn that the Department's boating access to Virginia's waterways continues to grow. Our boating access sites now number 222 with two new sites along the James River in Botetourt County.

The Department's newest WMA, located about 10 miles west of Farmville, consists of approximately 2,800 acres, and borders more than 10 miles of the Appomattox River in Prince Edward, Appomattox, and Buckingham counties. This acquisition will become part of a statewide network of 35 management areas totaling more than 197,000 acres owned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The property is locally known as Featherfin Farm and has a long-established hunting heritage. This largely wooded tract provides a diversity of rolling piedmont habitats that support upland species such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and an occasional bear, and it includes approximately 300 acres of fields and woodland edges that provide habitat for rabbits, quail and other small game. A variety of other wildlife also occurs on the property, which promises to provide good wildlife viewing opportunities.

Shortly after obtaining the property, the Department established a quota hunt system to make the site available



for public hunting this season. Properly licensed hunters may hunt after January 7 outside of the quota hunts. I encourage you to visit the Department's Web site at [http://www.dgf.virginia.gov/hunting/managed_hunts/quota.html](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/managed_hunts/quota.html) or contact our Forest Office at 434-525-7522 to learn about this site.

Waterfowl hunters and anglers alike will enjoy greater opportunities at Game Farm Marsh WMA with the addition of 103.5 acres, known as the Blue Wing Tract. The new site, comprised primarily of pristine wetlands and marsh, is located along the Chickahominy River in Charles City County across from Game Farm Marsh Wildlife Management Area in New Kent County.

These acquisitions were all made possible by federal, state, and local governments, private organizations, and individuals coming together with a shared interest in conserving our natural resources and providing a legacy for future generations. If you, or someone you know, are interested in donating land to preserve valuable habitat, please contact me. It's important to remember you can give in small ways too; everyone who purchases hunting and fishing licenses contributes significantly to the Department's ability to purchase public lands.

I encourage you this year to spend time in the outdoors at one of our WMAs or boat on one of Virginia's many public lakes and rivers. Whether you're a hunter, angler, boater, wildlife watcher or enthusiastic about any outdoor pursuit, these public lands and waterways are gateways for Virginians to explore and to experience some of the best that the Old Dominion has to offer. □

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Mark R. Warner, Governor

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Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

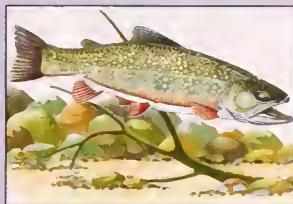
Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

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About the cover:

With almost 3,000 miles of trout streams and a vast diversity of habitat, fishing opportunities abound for anglers in Virginia. The thrill of catching a colorful brook, brown or rainbow trout can only be matched by the sheer beauty in the places that they live. ©Dwight Dyke



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by Larry Mohn

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24 issues for \$23.95

2006 Trout G

by Larry Mohn
VDGIF Fisheries Regional Manager

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2,800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valleys between these ranges contain the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The

Catchable Trout Stocking Program is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the Trout Stocking Plan on pages 10-11 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The Wild Trout Program includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The Fingerling Trout Stocking Program involves stocking sublegal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs, but includes many of our high quality, special regulation trout fishing waters.

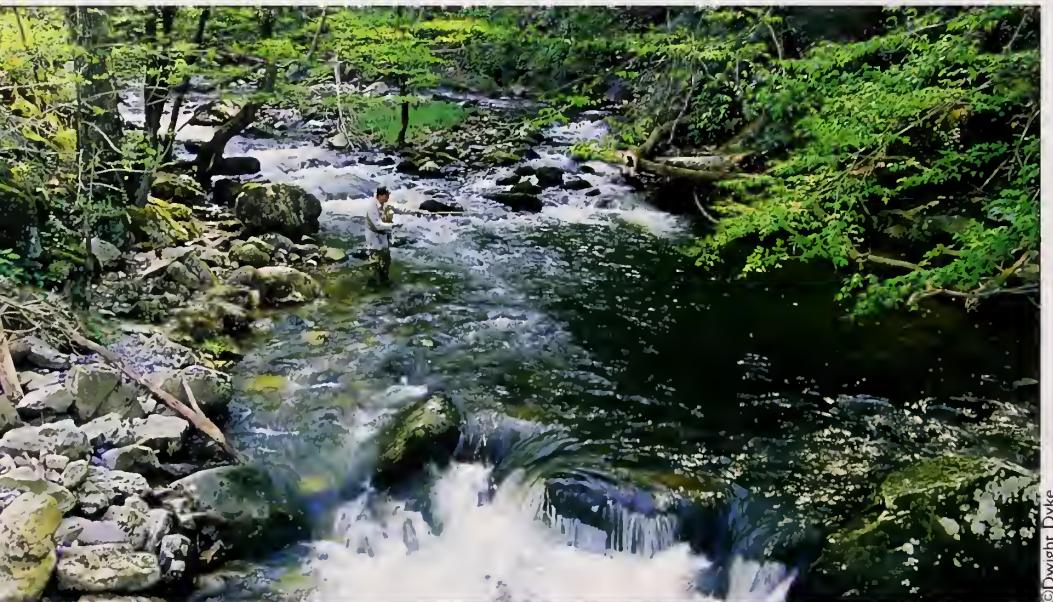
Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 23 in this special issue.

New For 2006

There are a few trout regulation changes that were approved by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' (VDGIF) Board this past fall that will go into effect in 2006. **Under the Department's new regulation process, these changes will not go into effect until July 1, 2006.** Therefore, the new delayed harvest sections will not be stocked under this program until October, 2006. The delayed harvest section of Chestnut Creek (Carroll County) has



©Dwight Dyke

uide

been extended upstream to Galax to include the entire length of stream paralleling the New River State Park bike trail. This change increases the length of delayed trout water from 2.3 miles to 11.4 miles. Peak Creek in Pulaski County has also been added to the delayed harvest program. This regulation change does not affect the historic stocked section of Peak Creek, rather it's a new 2.7 mile section located in the Town of Pulaski. Finally, Cabin Creek (Grayson County) has been added to those special regulation wild trout waters where single hooked artificial lures are required and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. The section of Cabin Creek placed under this regulation is that portion of stream within the Grayson Highlands State Park and brings all the Park streams under the same regulation.

There have been a few changes in the annual trout stocking plan. Cripple Creek (Wythe County) at Rt. 94 has been added back to the stocking program as a Category A water. This section of stream has been stocked in the past but had been posted the past two years. Back Creek (Bath County) has been upgraded from a Category B to a Category A and both Goose Creek (Floyd County) and Pads Creek (Bath County) have been upgraded from Category C to Category B. Upper Sherando Lake (Augusta County) has been downgraded from a Category A to a Category B. This change is a result of the entrance fee charges at this Forest Service Recreation Area. A full explanation of the



Rainbow Trout
©Spike Knuth

changes at this facility can be found under the Catchable Trout Stocking Plan section on page 9.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-and-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank and Wytheville. Three additional rearing facilities are located at Marion, Monetebello and Williamsville.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall and placed in incubator trays. This helps to main-

tain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Once the embryo is developed, trays must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25–30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small, pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2–3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9–11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state freshwater fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout, in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, most streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued by the end of May and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various intervals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the *Trout Stocking Plan* (see pages 10–11). The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information. For daily trout stocking updates during stocking season, call **1-434-525-FISH (3474)** or check our Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs, which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Special Regulations Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch

Mountain and Crooked Creek and from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31 at Douthat. For those anglers who miss the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia freshwater fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily, except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and VDGIF owns and manages the surrounding land.

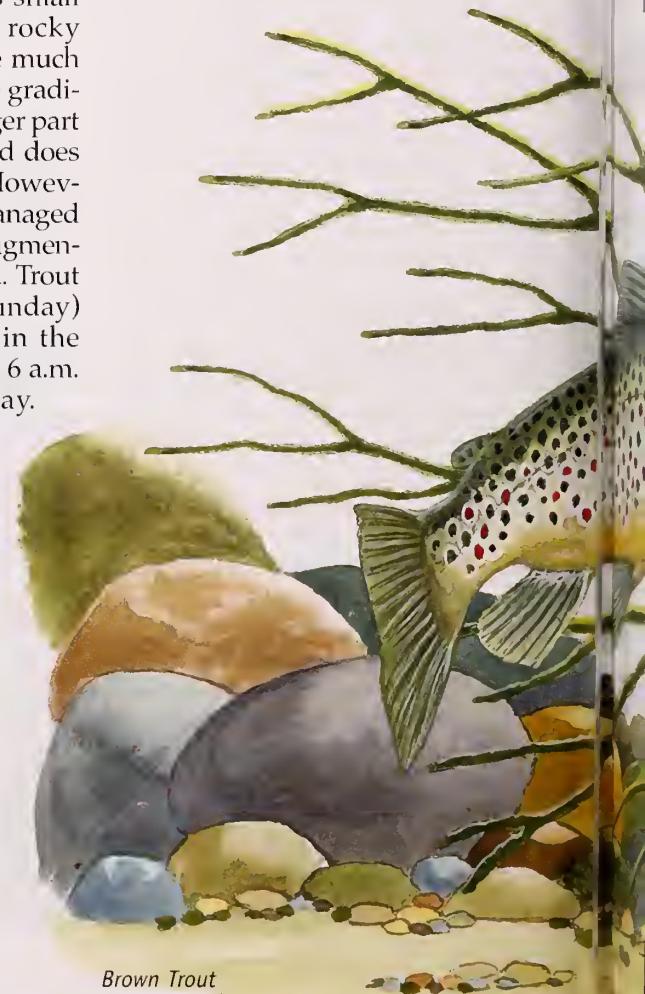
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax. The area consists of 5 miles of stream, which is stocked. In addition, approximately 2 miles of the stream is managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a

wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. The surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots, not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No camping facilities are available at Crooked Creek, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area includes about 4 miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate. A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, crappie, picker-



Brown Trout
©Spike Knuth

el and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During most summer months, conditions become unfavorable for trout stocking. Therefore, at Douthat, the fee fishing season runs from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. From June 16 through September 14, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required although trout fishing opportunities will remain for trout still present in the lake from previous stockings. The lake, stream and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of Parks and Recreation. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and

put-and-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1 through the following May 31, only artificial lures may be used, and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30 general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creel. A trout license is required to fish these waters from October 1 through June 15.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools, and it has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The

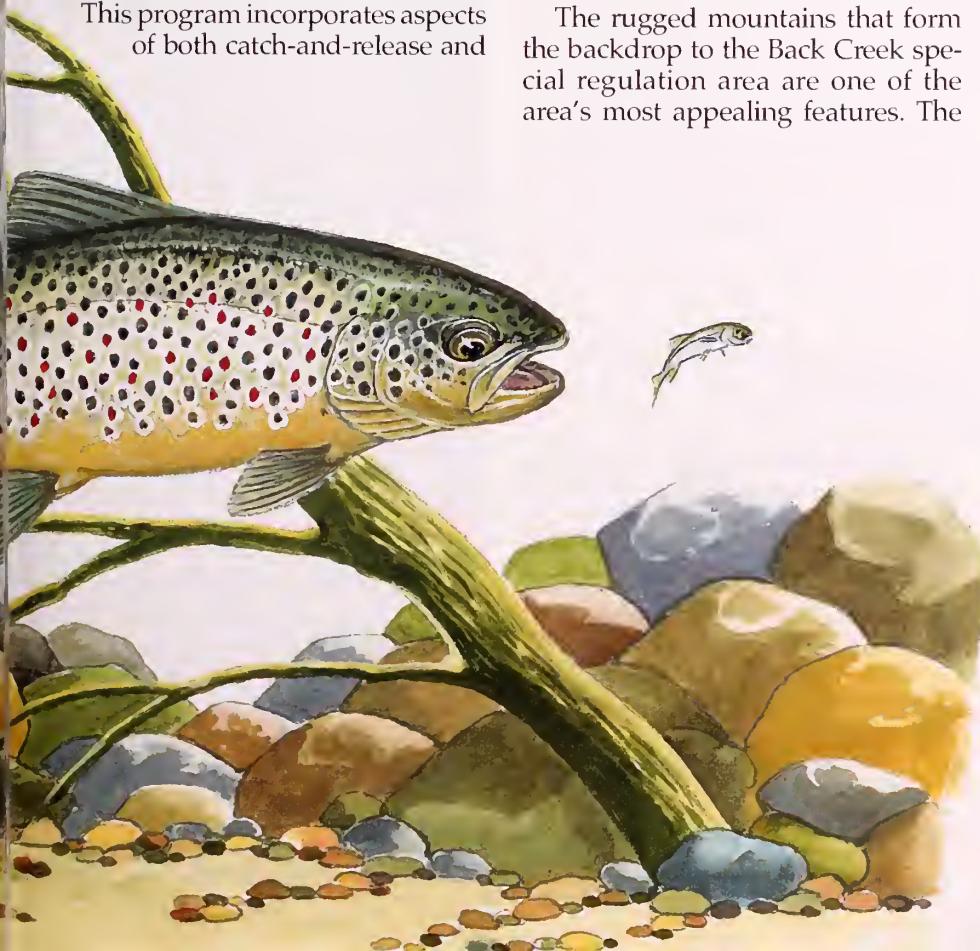
stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Dominion Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Dominion Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

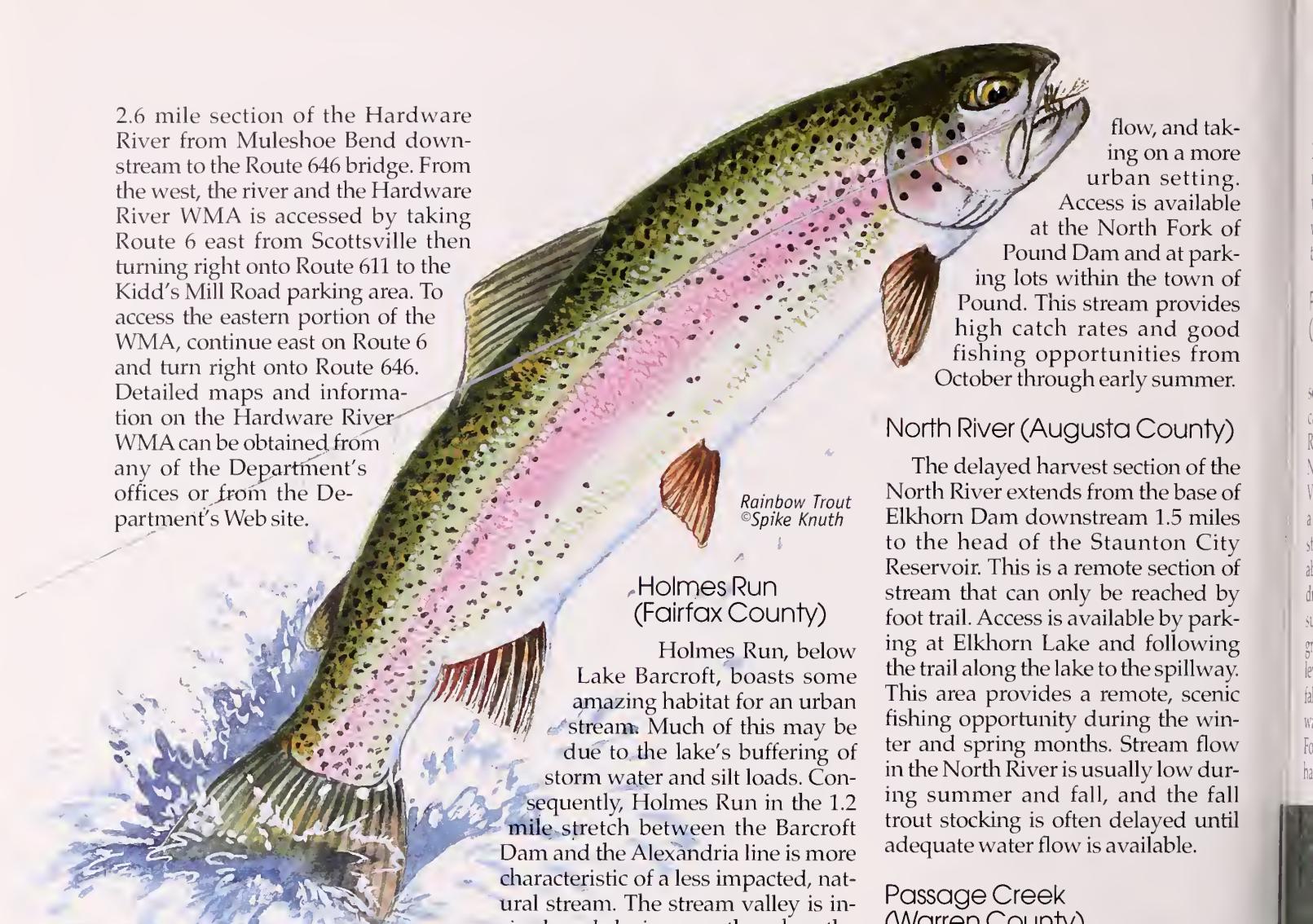
Chestnut Creek (Carroll County)

Chestnut Creek was established as a delayed harvest water in 2001. The original special regulation section extended 2.3 miles upstream from its confluence with the New River to Route 793. Changes approved this past fall will extend the special regulation upstream to the Rt. 58 bridge in Galax for a total of 11.4 miles. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park which offers a unique hiking and biking opportunity to access the many rock ledges and large pools common to this reach of stream. Parking is available at state road crossings and at the trail head in Galax. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property. The first stocking in the new section of stream will take place in October 2006.

Hardware River (Fluvanna County)

Although located in Virginia's piedmont region, the rocky outcrops, cliffs and steep banks of Hardware River resemble a mountain stream. This aesthetically pleasing section of river, located within the Hardware River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), will likely become a favorite destination for trout anglers. The special regulation area covers a





2.6 mile section of the Hardware River from Muleshoe Bend downstream to the Route 646 bridge. From the west, the river and the Hardware River WMA is accessed by taking Route 6 east from Scottsville then turning right onto Route 611 to the Kidd's Mill Road parking area. To access the eastern portion of the WMA, continue east on Route 6 and turn right onto Route 646. Detailed maps and information on the Hardware River WMA can be obtained from any of the Department's offices or from the Department's Web site.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15–25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quality of the fishing experience available.

*Rainbow Trout
© Spike Knuth*

Holmes Run (Fairfax County)

Holmes Run, below Lake Barcroft, boasts some amazing habitat for an urban stream. Much of this may be due to the lake's buffering of storm water and silt loads. Consequently, Holmes Run in the 1.2 mile stretch between the Barcroft Dam and the Alexandria line is more characteristic of a less impacted, natural stream. The stream valley is incised, and during months when the forest canopy is intact; urban sounds and sights are nearly eliminated. Anglers will find good fish cover in the form of bedrock, boulders and large woody debris. A fairly good trail follows (and sometimes crosses) the stream from the parking lot off Columbia Pike (Route 244).

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and

flow, and taking on a more urban setting.

Access is available at the North Fork of

Pound Dam and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream provides high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall, and the fall trout stocking is often delayed until adequate water flow is available.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 619.

Peak Creek (Pulaski County)

Peak Creek will become Delayed Harvest trout water beginning in July 2006 from the confluence of Tract Fork downstream to the State Route 99 bridge. The first trout stocking in this 2.7 mile stretch will begin in October 2006. Approximately 1 mile of this section is in downtown Pulaski.

The town is undergoing a revitalization project with recreation along Peak Creek being highlighted. This new stocking program fits right in with official plans, as trout stockings will greatly increase angling potential where little currently exists.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is located below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest, southeast of Buena Vista. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring and early summer months, and it provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The U.S. Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development

of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County and City of Salem)

There are two delayed harvest sections located on the Roanoke River near Roanoke. The first section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established in 2001. The newest section is located within the City of Salem and was established in 2003. The Green Hill Park section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the upper end of the park. It is best to access the stream from the park side of the stream, and anglers are encouraged to use the parking areas provided. In addition to trout fishing, Green Hill Park offers picnic facilities and other recreational opportunities for family activities. The Salem section is located along Riverside Drive and stretches from the Colorado Street Bridge downstream approximately 2 miles to the Route 419 bridge. This section of delayed harvest water is most easily accessed from the Riverside Drive side of the river. Both of these sections are located in an urban setting and provide big stream fishing in a pleasant environment. The stream is approximately 50-75 feet in width and has ample riffle/run habitat for wade fishing, as well as pool habitat for anglers who prefer bank fishing.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the City of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

A few changes have occurred within the catchable trout program for 2006. Cripple Creek (Wythe County) at Rt. 94 has been added back into the stocking program as a Category A water after being off the stocking list for two years. Back Creek (Bath County) has been upgraded from a Category B to a Category A water and both Goose Creek (Floyd County) and Pads Creek (Bath County) have been upgraded from Category C to Category B. Upper Sherando Lake (Augusta County) has been downgraded from a Category A to a Category B. The change at Sherando has occurred as part of an agreement between the Department and the U.S. Forest Service in response to complaints voiced by anglers last spring when they began being charged an entrance fee for fishing in the recreation area. Anglers who fish the Sherando Lake area should be aware of the fee agreement. No fee is charged from November through March 31. From April 1 through October 31 users of the area are charged an entrance fee, however, anglers using the parking lot below Lower Sherando Dam can continue to use the area at no charge until May 20. This allows Lower Sherando Lake to be fished during the entire stocking season at no charge. The change to Category B for Upper Sherando Lake allows the Department to stock that lake when no fee is charged.

Finally, a reminder about Trout Heritage Day. This program was added several years ago for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old opening day. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event. The Heritage Day waters for 2006 remain the same as last year and are listed on page 12. These streams and lakes are closed to fishing on Friday, March 31 for stocking and will reopen to fishing at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2006.



Catchable Trout

These waters require a trout license

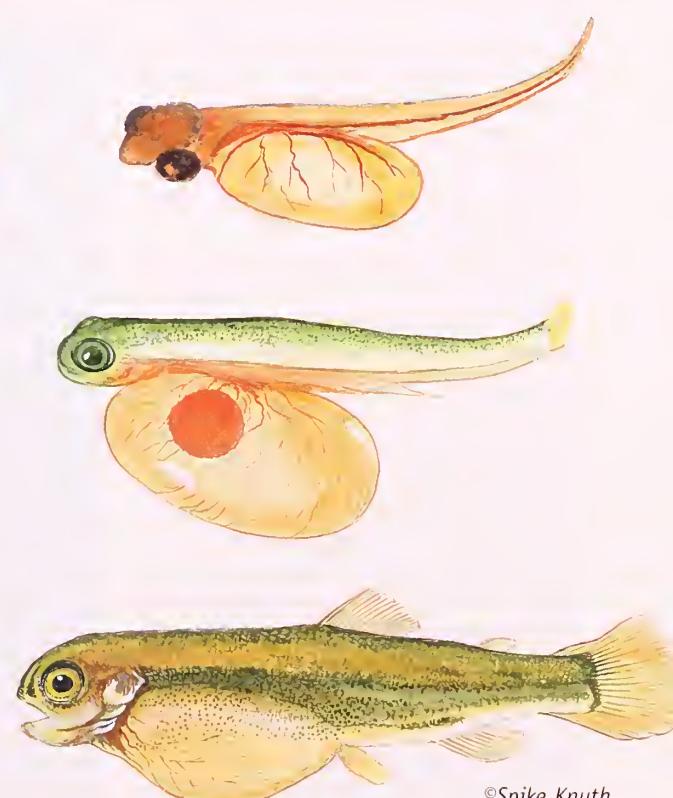
ALBEMARLE COUNTY		North Creek*	B	Helton Creek	B
Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	A	Roaring Run*	B	Middle Fox Creek	B
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	A				
Moormans River (N. Fork)	B	BUCHANAN COUNTY			
Moormans River (S. Fork)	B	Dismal River	A	GREENE COUNTY	
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	Russell Fork River	C	South River	B
				Swift Run	C
ALLEGHANY COUNTY					
Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	CARROLL COUNTY		HENRY COUNTY	
Jerrys Run*	C	Chestnut Creek	DH	Smith River (Dam)	B
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	Crooked Creek	A	Smith River (Lower)	A
Smith Creek*	C (NSF)	Little Reed Island Creek	A		
		Lovills Creek	C	HIGHLAND COUNTY	
AMHERST COUNTY		Stewarts Creek	B (NSF)	Bullpasture River	A
Davis Mill Creek*	C			S. Br. Potomac River	B
Little Irish Creek*	C (NSF)	CRAIG COUNTY			
Pedlar River (Below dam)*	DH	Barbours Creek*	B (NSF)	LEE COUNTY	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	Potts Creek*	A	Martins Creek	A
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B (H)			North Fork Powell River	A
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B (NSF)	DICKENSON COUNTY			
Rocky Row Run*	C	Cranesnest River	B	MADISON COUNTY	
		Frying Pan Creek	C	Hughes River	A
APPOMATTOX COUNTY		Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A	Robinson River	A
Holliday Creek	DH	Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	Rose River	A (H)
		Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A		
AUGUSTA COUNTY		FAIRFAX COUNTY		MONTGOMERY COUNTY	
Back Creek*	B	Accotink Creek	DH	Craig Creek*	B
Braley Pond*	A	Holmes Run	DH	Pandapas Pond*	A
Elkhorn Lake*	A			Poverty Creek*	C
Falls Hollow*	C (NSF)	FAUQUIER COUNTY		Toms Creek	B
Hearthstone Lake*	A	Thompson WMA Pond	A		
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	FLOYD COUNTY		NELSON COUNTY	
Mills Creek*	C	Burkes Fork	A	South Rockfish River	C (NSF)
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	Goose Creek	B	Tye River	A
North River (Gorge)*	B	Howells Creek	B (NSF)		
North River (Upper)*	B (NSF)	Laurel Fork	B	PAGE COUNTY	
North River (Tail)*	DH	Little Indian Creek	B (NSF)	Cub Run*	B
South River (Ridgeview Park)	A	Little River	A	Hawksbill Creek	A
South River	DH	Mira Fork	C (NSF)	Upper Passage Creek*	C
Upper Sherando Lake*	B	Rush Fork	C (NSF)		
		West Fork Little River	B (NSF)	PATRICK COUNTY	
BATH COUNTY		FLUVANNA COUNTY		Ararat River	B
Back Creek	DH	Hardware River	DH	Clarks Creek	B
Back Creek*	A			Dan River (Above Talbott)	B (NSF)
Bullpasture River	A			Dan River (Below Powerhouse)	A
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+			Poorhouse Creek	C (NSF)
Jackson River Special Reg.*				Rockcastle Creek	B
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	Runnett Bag Creek	B	Round Meadow Creek	C (NSF)
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	Pigg River	A	South Mayo River (North Fork)	C
Pads Creek*	B			South Mayo River (South Fork)	
Spring Run	A	FREDERICK COUNTY			
		Clearbrook Lake	A	PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY	
BEDFORD COUNTY		Hogue Creek	B	Quantico MCB	B (NSF)
Liberty Lake	A (H)	Paddy Run*	B		
		Winchester Lake	A	PULASKI COUNTY	
BLAND COUNTY		GILES COUNTY		Peak Creek	B
Laurel Fork Creek	C	Big Stoney Creek*	A		
Lick Creek	B	Dismal Creek*	B (NSF)	ROANOKE COUNTY	
Wolf Creek	A			Glade Creek	A
		GRAYSON COUNTY		Roanoke River (City)	A
BOTETOURT COUNTY		Big Wilson Creek	A	Roanoke River (Green Hill Park)	DH
Jennings Creek*	A (H)	Elk Creek	A	Roanoke River (Salem)	A
McFalls Creek*	C	Fox Creek*	B	Roanoke River (Salem)	DH
Middle Creek*	B	Hales Lake*	A	Tinker Creek	A (H)
				ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY	
				Irish Creek*	B
				Maury River	A

Stocking Plan

between October 1 and June 15

Mill Creek*	A	Straight Branch*	C	
South River	B	Tennessee Laurel	A	
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY				
Briery Branch Lake*	A	Valley Creek	C	
Dry River	B	Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
German River	C	Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	
Hone Quarry Lake*	A	WISE COUNTY		
Hone Quarry Run*	C	Clear Creek*	C	
North Fork Shenandoah River	B	Middle Fork Powell River	B	
Silver Lake	B	Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	
Slate Lick Lake*	B	WYTHE COUNTY		
Slate Lick Run*	B	Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A	
South River (Grottoes)	A	Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	
RUSSELL COUNTY				
Big Cedar Creek	A	Gullion Fork Ponds*	B	
SCOTT COUNTY				
Bark Camp Lake*	A	Rural Retreat Lake Pond	A	
Big Stony Creek	B	Stoney Creek*	C	
Little Stony Creek*	B	West Fork Reed Creek*	C	
Stock Creek	B	Category A, stocked in each of the following periods: October (once), November or December (once), January or February; (once), March (twice), April (twice), and May (once).		
Straight Fork (Lower)	C	Category B, stocked in each of the following periods: November or December (once), January or February (once), March–May 15 (three times).		
HENANDOAH COUNTY				
Mill Creek	B			
Passage Creek*	A			
Peters Mill Creek*	C			
Stony Creek	A			
Tomahawk Pond*	B			
MYTH COUNTY				
Comers Creek*	C			
Cressy Creek*	C			
Dickey Creek*	C			
Hurricane Creek*	C			
Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A			
Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B			
South Fork Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A			
South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A			
Staley Creek	A			
TAUNTON CITY				
Lake Tams	B			
CAZEWELL COUNTY				
Lake Witten	A			
Laurel Creek*	C			
Lincolnshire Lake	A			
Little Tumbling Creek	B			
VARREN COUNTY				
Happy Creek	B			
Passage Creek	DH			
WASHINGTON COUNTY				
Beartree Lake*	A			
Big Brumley Creek	C			
Big Tumbling Creek	A			

Clockwise: Eyed egg, newly hatched trout, sac fry and swim up fry. Depending on the species of trout the growing process can take anywhere from two to five months in the wild. Under ideal hatchery conditions this process can take as little as 45 days.



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Category C, stocked three times between October and April 30.

* National Forest Waters

+ Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B put-and-take water after fee fishing season DH Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.

(NSF) These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings

** A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

(H) These waters will receive a stocking for the "Heritage Day" program. Heritage Day is April 1. For details see the section explaining Heritage Day in this magazine.

Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained by calling **1-434-525-FISH (525-3474)**. The recording is updated after 4:00 p.m. each day fish are stocked. Or go to our Web site.

Trout Species of Virginia

TROUT belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae), which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish and grayling.



Brook Trout
(*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line, and reddish coloration.

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America, New Zealand and Asia. No other species of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small

streams, usually near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. In Virginia, an average female lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch two to three months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. The life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia, and some streams contain occasional trout of 12-16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size, even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, minnows, salamanders and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams

common to Virginia. Fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. State Record: 5 lbs., 10 oz., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.



©Tye Krueger

Rainbow Trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

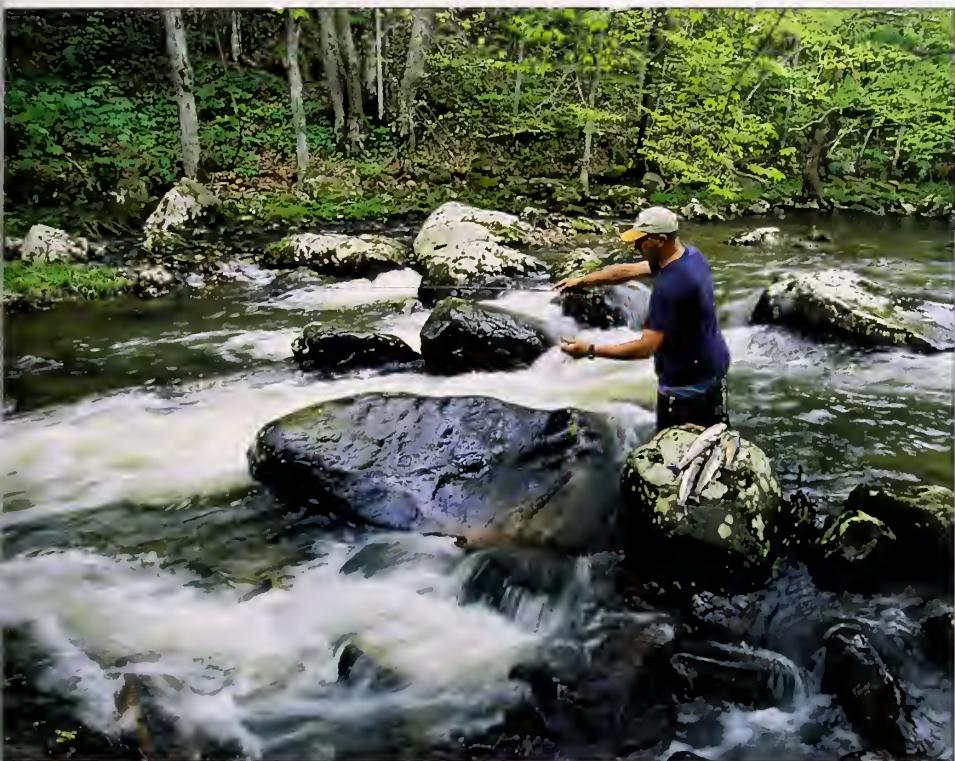
Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in

Trout Heritage Waters for 2006

The following waters will be stocked for Heritage Day on April 1.

Beartree Lake	Washington County
Bark Camp Lake	Scott County
Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area*	Washington County
Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff)	Wythe County
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area*	Carroll County
Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area*	Bath County
Jennings Creek	Botetourt County
Lake Witten	Tazewell County
Liberty Lake	Bedford County
Lincolnshire Lake	Tazewell County
Middle Fork Holston River	Smyth County
Passage Creek	Shenandoah County
Pedlar River (upper)	Amherst County
Pigg River	Franklin County
Rose River	Madison County
Tinker Creek	Roanoke County

* The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from March 27-March 31. Heritage Waters are closed on March 31. On April 1 fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m.



streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. State Record: 14 lbs., 7 oz., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Coloration: The dorsal area of this fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, southern Canada and the Rocky Mountains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

In Virginia, the brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occurring in the Carroll, Floyd and Patrick county areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many larger, wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats, often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is longer

its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia and Europe.

In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is limited, with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have displaced the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, the time of spawning can vary greatly between populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time, however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs, depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and, therefore, slightly more difficult to catch.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain

than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10–15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will occasionally produce brown trout over 20 inches.

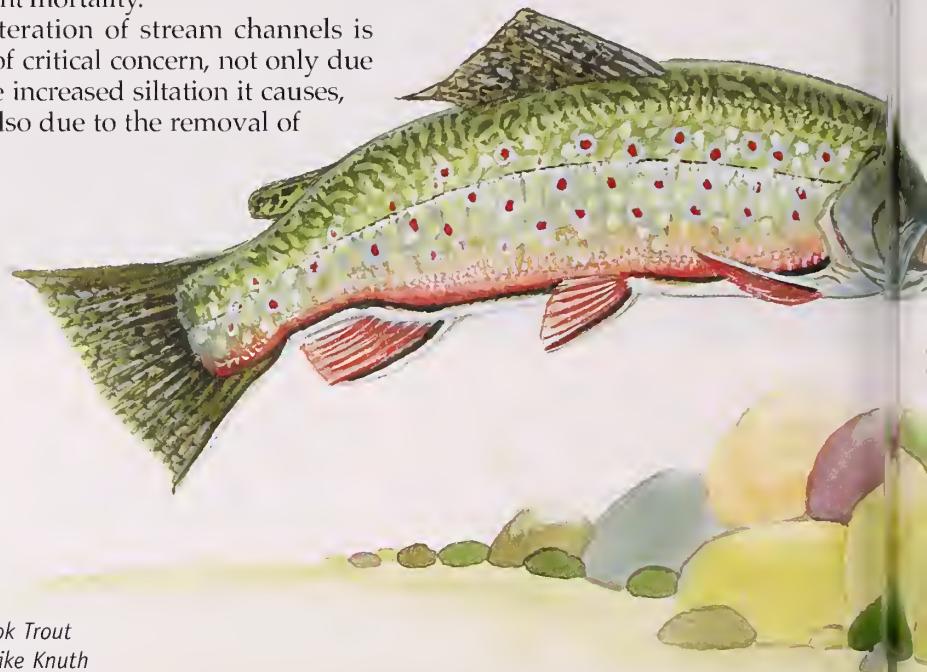
Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders, frogs, rodents and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. State Record: 14 lbs., 12 oz., South Fork Holston River.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of

physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in



Brook Trout
©Spike Knuth

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout cannot compete against.

fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover, such as undercut banks, large rocks or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past few decades, the

the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in neighboring states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8–10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.



Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creel in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo River is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population with numerous fish 8–10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries, Quebec Branch, Wilburn Branch and Mill Creek, include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area.

The special regulation on Cabin Creek includes all that portion of the stream within Grayson Highlands State Park and brings all of the streams within the Park under one regulation. These streams provide a good opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow trout and native brook trout. Brook trout are generally restricted to the headwater sections of these streams while rainbows are found throughout. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders dominate the stream channel interspersed with deep pools and occasional falls. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park on Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the

lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7–11 inches in length; brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The section of the Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse upstream to Townes Dam is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Wild brown trout are the dominant species in this stretch, although the occasional brook or rainbow trout may be caught. This is a moderate sized river with a steep gradient and many large, deep pools. The numbers of brown trout present are relatively low (a rough guide would be 2–4 fish / pool), but the size of the fish is above average (fish up to 16 inches are not uncommon).

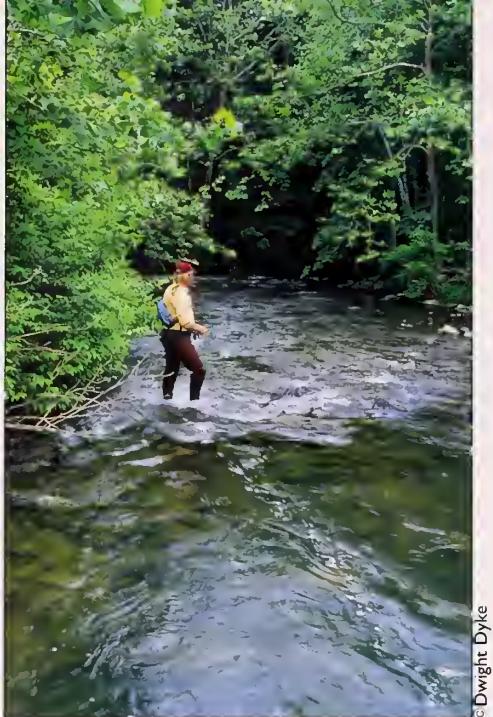
This portion of the river can be reached by taking Route 8 south from Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse at the end of the road. The upper end of this section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turning left on Route 602, and proceeding to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required to access the special regulation section, and it can be obtained at no charge from the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone 434/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, is designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tributaries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks, which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.



©Dwight Dyke

deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream, and it is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8–13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7–12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7–10

inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) was designated a catch-and-release trout stream in 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present as well. Adult trout will range from 7–12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

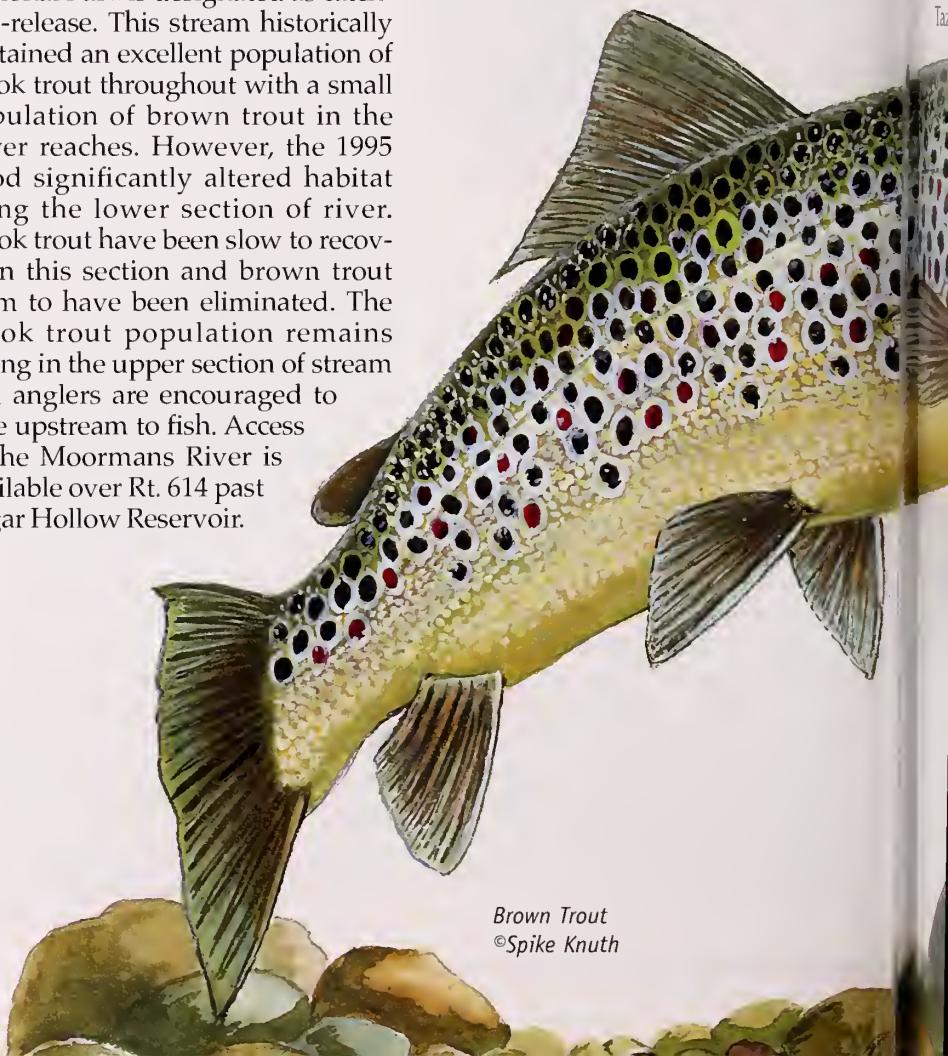
That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. This stream historically contained an excellent population of brook trout throughout with a small population of brown trout in the lower reaches. However, the 1995 flood significantly altered habitat along the lower section of river. Brook trout have been slow to recover in this section and brown trout seem to have been eliminated. The brook trout population remains strong in the upper section of stream and anglers are encouraged to hike upstream to fish. Access to the Moormans River is available over Rt. 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of the stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the origi-



Brown Trout
©Spike Knuth

nal Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10-11 inch adults.

Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8-12 inches in length. Historically, the St. Mary's was well-known for its wild rainbow trout fishery, but stream acidification completely eliminated the wild rainbow trout fishery and seriously impacted native brook trout reproduction. In the spring of 1999, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department and other private organizations, limed the St. Mary's River to improve water quality. This effort proved to be very successful at restoring the native brook trout population as well as populations of non-game fish species and invertebrates. However, the positive impacts of this liming have been diminishing over the past two years

and, as of this writing, the USFS is planning on completing a second liming operation in fall of 2005. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

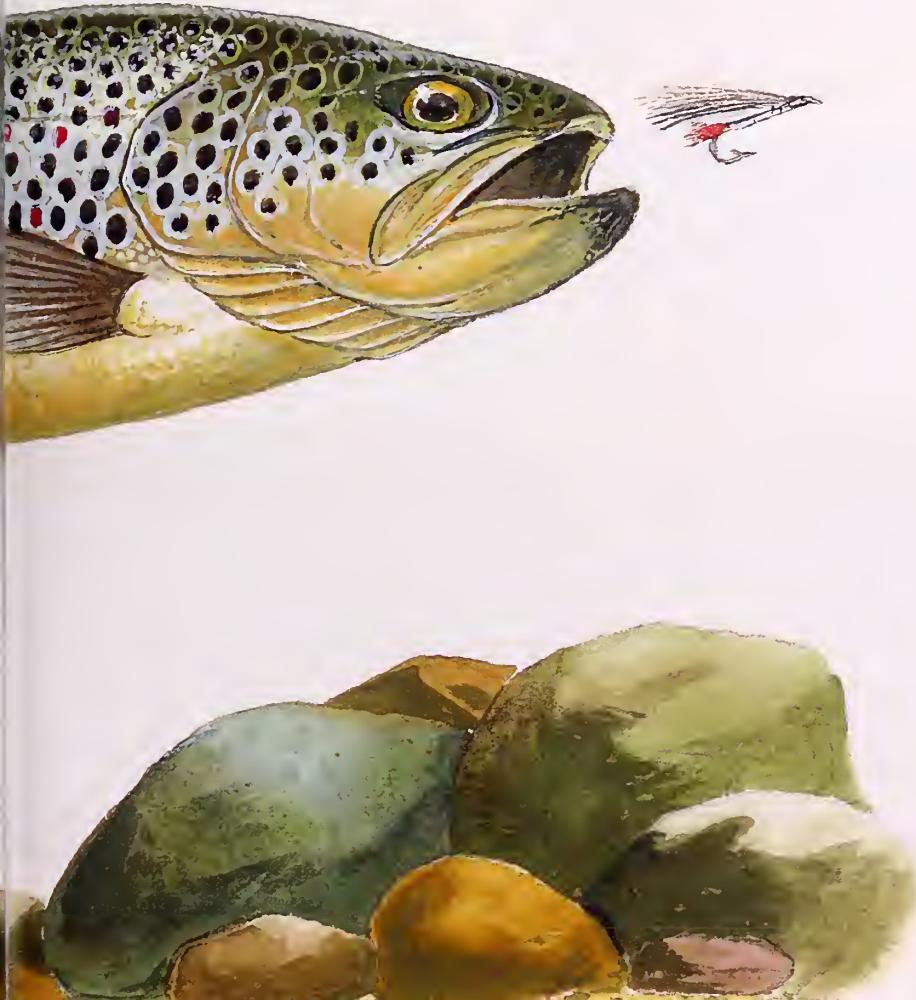
Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, are open to the public for year-round fishing as part of the Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Stewart's Creek WMA is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to 1999, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek (to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley) made up the special regulation area. In 1999, an additional section (that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, 2 miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek) was added. There remains a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regu-



lations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7-14 inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Most streams within the Park are open to fishing but only a portion of these allow anglers to creel trout and can change annually. Therefore, check with SNP for their annual fishing regulations. All fishing in the park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest the creel limit is six trout per day, all of which must be 9 inches or more in length. Most streams within the park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs. It is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters, and spring-fed streams to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water tem-

peratures for trout survival, have good habitat and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special gear restrictions are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost

of the more common put-and-take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is growing. The Department recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see Trout Stocking Plan), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-and-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and one reservoir deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. Two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish, such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.





©Dwight Dyke

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until 1999 Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but the lake no longer requires a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June, with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, mealworms, flies, and spinners. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slackening off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-and-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9–13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect, and no trout stamp is required. However, a \$1.00 daily use permit or a \$15.00 seasonal pass (good from July 1–June 30) is required from Lexington City Hall, (540) 462-3702.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County water supply reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-and-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10–12 inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District at (540) 291-2188. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and it is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats without motors are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976, and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish

in the 8–14 inch range and an occasional large brook trout of 2–3 pounds. New regulations posted in 2002 require release of all trout less than 10 inches. In addition, the lake has developed a fairly good population of largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie. In recent years, the city has drawn more water from the lake, and it is not unusual to find the lake well below full pool in late summer and fall, which can make boat access very difficult. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2,530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot draw down by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and the McConaughy strain of rainbow trout. Regulations were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of this lake to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of 3–5 pound trout reported caught. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license nor a National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River, below Gathright Dam, provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about 3 mile intervals. However, several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on

their properties. Anglers should be careful on where they fish this river.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of 4 trout per day over 12 inches in length. Trout populations, which had shown a significant decline after stocking was terminated, have now rebounded. An excellent wild rainbow trout fishery has developed throughout the river and wild brown trout populations continue to expand. Trout density and average size are well above levels seen when trout were stocked. Rainbow trout commonly reach 16 to 18 inches and brown trout 18 to 24 inches.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6-8 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creel. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary (above the old C & O Dam) upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, fingerling brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8-12 inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gra-



dient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. The holdover of stocked brown trout is good, with some fish reaching 4 pounds. Recent sampling efforts indicate that some natural reproduction of brown trout is also occurring.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6 inches) in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the

confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the Department office in Verona (please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables, and good numbers of 10-16 inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5-8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately 6 miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8-12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8-18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir.

A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: (434) 799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

This section of the Jackson River is stocked several times a year with

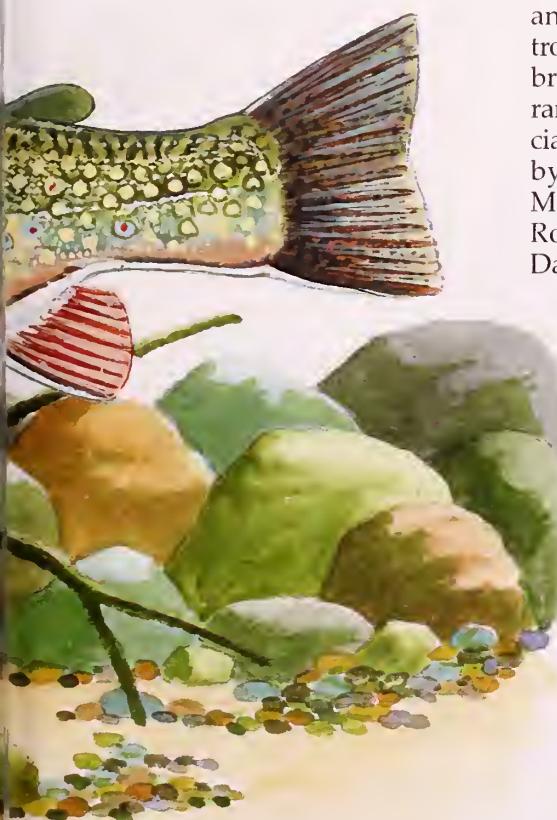
catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge (located just above the mouth of Muddy Run) upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta / Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the Department office in Verona. You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow, limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3-7 pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains, the scenic, tailwater fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam remains in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to



Brook Trout
©Spike Knuth

and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This section of the Pound River can be accessed from Flanagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section was established in 1999. The 1 mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt County line. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools, which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section continues to be developed using annual brown and rainbow fingerling stockings. Trout growth and survival to date has been good for both species of trout. Three-year classes of trout have been established in the stream and fish up to 16 inches are available for anglers. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special regulation area on the Smith River extends from the mouth of Town Creek (approximately 2.5 miles below Philpott Dam) downstream to the Route 666 bridge at the upper end of the Town of Bassett. This 3-mile section of the river has a large population of wild brown trout. Fish up to 14 inches are common, but larger fish are relatively rare. The habitat in this area consists of large deep pools connected by moderately deep runs and shallow riffles. There is no direct vehicle access to this portion of the river, so you'll have to park at either end and walk into the section. Also, when power is generated at Philpott Dam, the river is too high for wading. You should call the Army Corps of Engineers (the operators of Philpott Dam) at (276) 629-2432 to get

the recorded generation schedule before you go fishing.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area was expanded in 1999 and now includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10-14 inch trout are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a state freshwater fishing license to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the Trout Stocking Plan) must have an additional trout license. A National Forest Stamp is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulation areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a trout license. However, some of the special regulation areas require a signed landowner permit card which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a non-resident state freshwater fishing license (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a non-resident trout license, and a National Forest Stamp (where appropriate.)

For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a non-resident state freshwater fishing license, the appropriate National Forest Stamp and landowner permit cards.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a state or non-resident freshwater fishing license and a daily fishing permit that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) \$5 senior lifetime fishing licenses do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a National Forest Stamp.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions and season lengths. □

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-9369

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360

Fredericksburg
1320 Belman Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Forest
1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

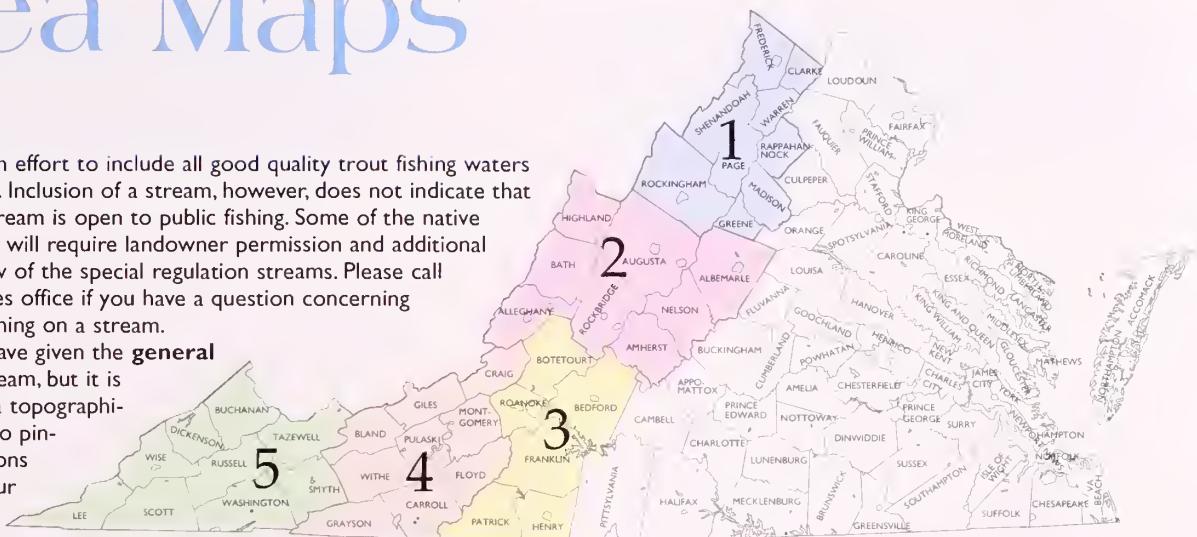
Marion
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park



Frederick County

- (1) Hogue Creek
- (2) Clearbrook Lake
- (3) Winchester Lake
- (4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County

- (5) Passage Creek
- (6) Little Passage Creek
- (7) Peters Mill Creek
- (8) Stony Creek
- (9) Little Stony Creek
- (10) Mill Creek
- (11) Tomahawk Pond
- (12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
- (13) German River
- (14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
- (15) Dry River
- (16) Switzer Lake
- (17) Blacks Run
- (18) Hone Quarry Lake
- (19) Hone Quarry Run
- (20) Briery Branch Lake
- (21) Silver Lake
- (23) Madison Run (SNP)
- (24) Big Run (SNP)
- (26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County

- (27) Naked Creek (SNP)
- (28) Cub Run
- (29) Upper Passage Creek
- (30) Hawksbill Creek
- (31) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County

- (32) Piney River (SNP)
- (33) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
- (34) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County

- (35) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
- (36) Robinson River (SNP)
- (37) Rose River (SNP)
- (38) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County

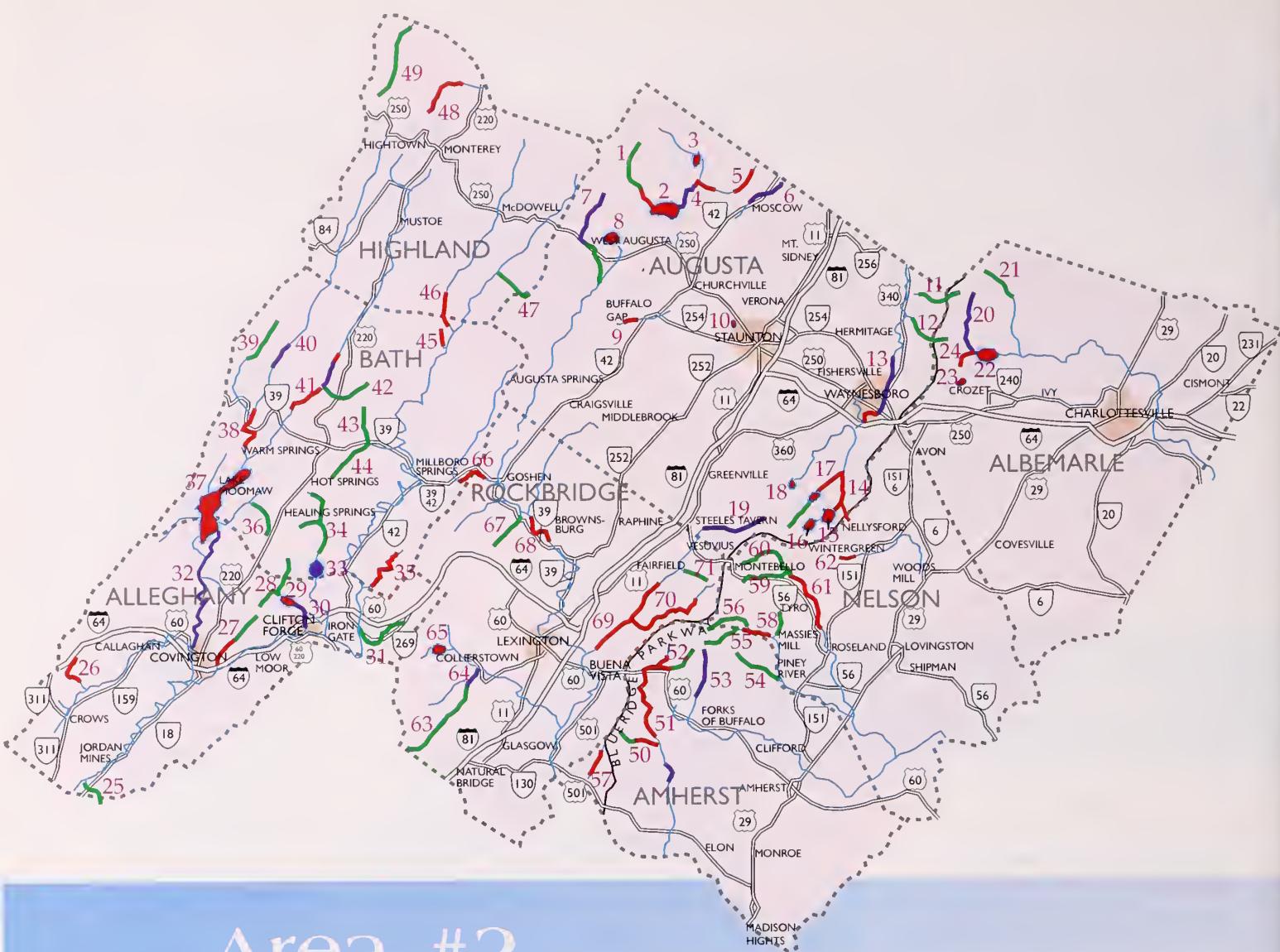
- (39) Conway River
- (40) South River
- (41) Swift Run

Warren County

- (42) Happy Creek

Fauquier County

- (43) Thompson WMA Pond



Area #2

Augusta County

- (1) North River (Upper)
- (2) Elkhorn Lake
- (3) Hearthstone Lake
- (4) North River (tailwater and gorge)
- (5) North River (Natural Chimney)
- (6) Mossy Creek
- (7) Rameys Draft
- (8) Braley Pond
- (9) Falls Hollow
- (10) Staunton City Lake Tams
- (11) Meadow Run (SNP)
- (12) Paine Run (SNP)
- (13) South River
- (14) Back Creek
- (15) Lower Sherando Lake
- (16) Upper Sherando Lake
- (17) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
- (18) Coles Run Reservoir
- (19) St. Marys River

Albemarle County

- (20) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
- (21) Doyles River (SNP)
- (22) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
- (23) Mint Spring Lakes
- (24) S. Fk. Moormans River

Alleghany County

- (25) Shawvers Run

- (26) Jerrys Run
- (27) Pounding Mill Creek
- (28) Smith Creek
- (29) Clifton Forge Reservoir
- (30) Smith Creek
- (31) Simpson Creek
- (32) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County

- (33) Douthat Lake
- (34) Wilson Creek
- (35) Pads Creek
- (36) Cascades Creek
- (37) Lake Moomaw
- (38) Back Creek
- (39) Little Back Creek
- (40) Back Creek
- (41) Jackson River
- (42) Muddy Run
- (43) Jordan Run
- (44) Mares Run
- (45) Spring Run
- (46) Bullpasture River

Highland County

- (46) Bullpasture River
- (47) Benson Run
- (48) S. Br. Potomac River
- (49) Laurel Fork

Amherst County

- (50) Little Irish Creek
- (51) Pedlar River
- (52) Davis Mill Creek
- (53) N. Fk. Buffalo River
- (54) Little Piney River
- (55) S. Fk. Piney River
- (56) N. Fk. Piney River
- (57) Rocky Row Run

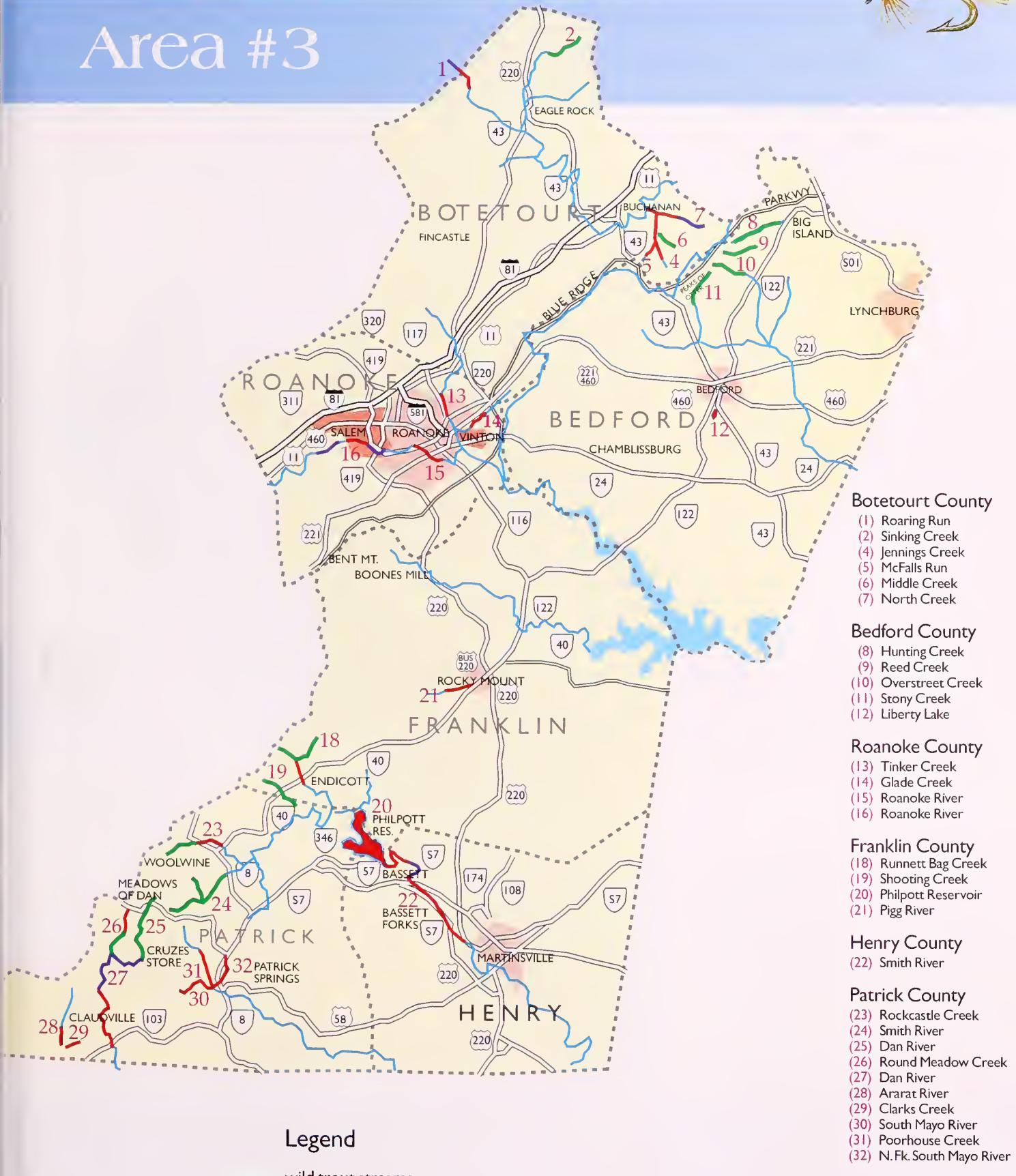
Nelson County

- (58) Shoe Creek
- (59) S. Fk. Tye River
- (60) N. Fk. Tye River
- (61) Tye River
- (62) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County

- (63) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
- (64) Buffalo Creek
- (65) Lexington Reservoir
- (66) Mill Creek
- (67) Guys Run
- (68) Maury River
- (69) South River
- (70) Irish Creek
- (71) Big Marys Creek

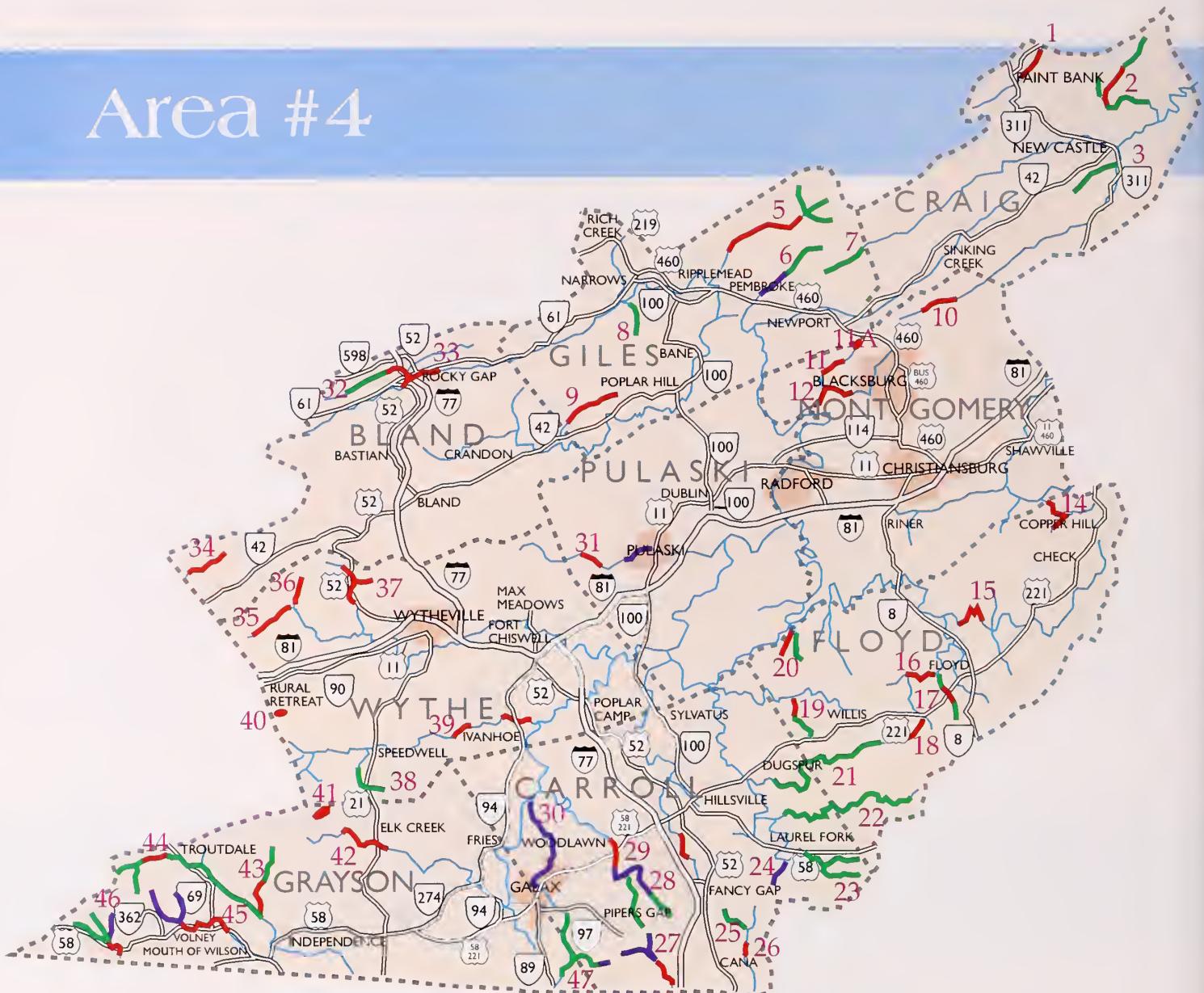
Area #3



Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters
- (SNP) Shenandoah National Park

Area #4



Craig County

- (1) Potts Creek
- (2) N. Fk. Barbour's Creek/ Barbour's Creek
- (3) Meadow Creek

Giles County

- (5) Big Stoney Creek
- (6) Little Stoney Creek
- (7) Johns Creek
- (8) Mill Creek
- (9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County

- (10) Craig Creek
- (11) Poverty Creek
- (11A) Pandapas Pond
- (12) Toms Creek

Floyd County

- (14) Goose Creek
- (15) Little River
- (16) W. Fk. Little River

Carroll County

- (17) Howell Creek
- (18) Rush Fork
- (19) Mira Fork
- (20) Little Indian Creek
- (21) Burkes Fork
- (22) Laurel Fork
- (23) Big Reed Island Creek
- (24) Snake Creek
- (25) Elk Spur Branch
- (26) Lovills Creek
- (27) Stewarts Creek
- (28) Crooked Creek
- (29) Little Reed Island Creek
- (30) Chestnut Creek

Pulaski County

- (31) Peak Creek

Bland County

- (32) Laurel Fork Creek

Wythe County

- (35) W. Fk. Reed Creek
- (36) Guillon Fork Ponds
- (37) Stoney Creek
- (38) Dry Run
- (39) Cripple Creek
- (40) Rural Retreat Lake Pond

Grayson County

- (41) Hales Lakes
- (42) Elk Creek
- (43) Middle Fox Creek
- (44) Fox Creek
- (45) Big Wilson Creek
- (46) Helton Creek
- (47) Chestnut Creek
- (48) Cabin Creek



Mossy Creek



©Beau Beasley

Successfully bridging the gap between public and private fishing access helps to highlight the success of one of Virginia's most popular trout streams.

by Beau Beasley

You pull your car into the tiny parking lot alongside the road and take a moment to stare at the cool, clear water slowly meandering its way downstream. Up ahead, you spot a small but familiar bridge, almost as familiar as the creek itself, having been photographed and painted so many times by anglers and artists alike. You string up your fly rod and know that you'll be rewarded with only a few takes today. If you're lucky, you might land one big trout all day. You take this knowledge in stride, however, because you know you're headed out to fish the most difficult, most famous trout stream in the



©Dwight Dyke

Above: Mossy Creek is one of the most celebrated trout streams in the state and a trout fishing treasure. Left and upper right: Dan Genest, Dominion Virginia Power; John Ross, Virginia Council President of Trout Unlimited and Seth Sprouse were a few of the many volunteers that showed up to help install the new fence crossings.

Old Dominion: Mossy Creek in Augusta County, Virginia.

Mossy Creek is Virginia's best-known spring creek, and with good reason. This beautiful piece of trout water, which stretches over 7 miles before it empties into the North River, is home to some of the largest brown trout in the entire Mid-Atlantic. How big, you ask? Try 5 to 7 pounds. In fact the trout are so big that the Virginia



©Beau Beasley



©Michael Simon



Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) won't stock Mossy with anything less than 7 inches long because anything smaller only serves as a snack for the brutish brown trout that call this river home.

Big trout are only half the story of Mossy Creek, however. During the 1970s Urbie Nash of the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and VDGIF biologist Larry Mohn approached Mossy's landowning locals with a proposal for a unique three-way cooperative agreement: Streamside landowners would allow anglers

The new V-style fence entrances are easy to use and still help to keep cattle from wading into Mossy Creek.



©Michael Simon



A lot of hard work has gone into making Mossy Creek one of Virginia's most notable trout waters. Continued cooperation by private landowners and respect from people, like Rick Pearman (above), who often fishes Mossy Creek, is one of the biggest reasons why portions of this beautiful stream remains open to the public. Above photos ©Michael Simon.

access to their private property, Trout Unlimited would work to improve the habitat of Mossy Creek—which by that time had been completely devastated by roving cattle—and the state would stock the stream. What followed was the state's most successful joint effort to promote public trout fishing, the restoration of a stream that would otherwise have been lost, and a model of what can happen when folks work together.

In late September 2005 Urbie Nash's TU Chapter and Larry Mohn showed up in support of Mossy Creek again, this time at the request of a young man who had not yet been born when the conservationists had made their first bid to save the stream. Seth Sprouse had fished Mossy for years and watched the old fence

crossings installed by the creek's first supporters fall into disrepair. When it came time to plan his Eagle Scout Badge project, Sprouse knew exactly what he must do. He contacted a member of the Shenandoah Valley TU chapter who in turn contacted Dominion Virginia Power. On September 21, 2005, Sprouse, Shenandoah Valley TU members, the VDGIF, and more than three dozen Dominion Virginia Power employees showed up to replace the dilapidated fence crossings with new crossings—paid for by the power company—to make fishing easier and safer for older anglers.

Larry Mohn sums up what makes Mossy special: "There is no other creek in the state that has the flow and quality of water that Mossy has and still remains open to the public."

You'll need a special permit from the landowners and VDGIF to fish the public-access section of Mossy Creek. Just send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to VDGIF, Verona Office, P.O. Box 996, Verona, VA 24482. The permit, good for a year, is free. □

Beau Beasley is the Conservation Outreach Officer for the Virginia Fly Fishing Festival (www.vaflyfishingfestival.org) held each April on the banks of the South River in Waynesboro, Virginia.



2006 Outdoor Calendar of Events

March 31, April 1-2: *Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)* at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, Va. For more information call 804-367-0656.

July 7-9: *Virginia Outdoor Weekend* at Twin Lakes State Park in Green Bay, Va. in Prince Edward County. For more information call 804-367-0656.

August 18-20: *Mother Daughter Outdoors* at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center in Appomattox, Va. For more information call 804-367-0656.



New Sauger State Record

by Dean Fowler

The State Record Fish Committee of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has, for the second time, certified a new state record sauger. For those unfamiliar with this species, it closely resembles a walleye and is currently found only in the Clinch and Powell rivers in western Virginia. Mr. Freland Eugene Maxfield, of Castlewood, caught a 2-pound, 12-ounce sauger on October 21 in the Clinch River. The fish was 21 inches long and had a girth of 9.75 inches. It broke the previous record of 2 pounds, 7 ounces set just six weeks earlier by Mr. William Milton of Castlewood. □

Trout Unlimited Conservation and Fishing Camp

High school students from Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and D.C., will rendezvous to learn trout conservation, fly and spin fishing and fly tying at the 2nd annual Trout Unlimited Conservation and Fishing Camp at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Va. from June 25 through June 30, 2006. Tuition is \$450, and scholarships are available.

Located on the Rose River where it comes out of Shenandoah National Park, the camp is staffed by experts in watershed ecology, trout biologists, leading fly-fishing guides and Trout Unlimited volunteers.

Campers stay at Graves Mountain Lodge, a famous resort known for its orchards, country hospitality and fishing along the Rose River.

For more information, and to apply, go to www.tucamp.org or call George Gaines at 202/363-0437. □

13th Annual Youth Writing Competition

The Virginia Outdoor Writer's Association (VOWA) announces its 13th Annual Youth Writing Competition, for 2005-2006. The goal of the contest is to reward young people for excellence in communicating their personal experiences in and of the outdoors.

The competition is open to all Virginia students in grades 9 through 12. The theme of this year's contest is "My Most Memorable Outdoor Experience." Home schooled students are acceptable and e-mail submissions are encouraged. An experience by the writer with hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, hiking, birding or other outdoor activity, should be the predominant subject matter. The submission deadline is February 3, 2006. If there are too few quality entries, judges have the right to declare no-contest.

Awards will consist of gift certificates from Bass Pro Shops; \$100 for 1st;

\$75 for 2nd, and \$50 for 3rd place, plus outdoor merchandise prizes as well.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at VOWA's spring meeting March (date to be announced) 2006, in Charlottesville. Awardees and their parents (or mentor / friend) will be guests of VOWA for lunch.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Open to all Virginia students in grades 9 through 12.
2. Nonfiction only, with the theme, "My Most Memorable Outdoor Experience."
3. Length: 500 to 750 words.
4. Must be typed, double-spaced.
5. Include complete phone number, age, grade and school (home school is acceptable).
6. Submission deadline is February 3, 2006.

Send submissions to:

Dan Genest
12500 Musical Lane
Midlothian, VA 23113
804-378-8262
Dan_Genest@dom.com



RECIPES

by Joan Cone

Celebrate The New Year With Trout

Why will some people travel long distances to fish for trout? The answers are:

1. These fish are beautiful.
2. They have small scales.
3. Flycasting is challenging.
4. You do not need smelly bait.
5. Trout taste great and can be prepared easily in many different ways.

Menu

Pan Fried Trout

Southwestern Roasted Potatoes

Honey Glazed Carrots

Grapefruit Salad

Key Lime Pie

Pan Fried Trout

4 trout, 8 to 10 ounces each
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
½ cup yellow cornmeal
½ cup flour
3 tablespoons butter
6 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 lemon, cut into wedges

Wash trout briefly under cold running water. Pat dry inside and out with paper towels. Sprinkle cavities and skins with salt and pepper. Mix cornmeal and flour. In a heavy 12-inch skillet, melt the butter with oil over moderate heat. When the foam begins to subside, roll each trout in the cornmeal-flour mixture, shaking off excess, and place them in skillet. Fry 4 to 5 minutes on each side until golden brown and crisp. Trout are done when the meat flakes easily with a fork. Serve with lemon wedges. Serves 4.

Southwestern Roasted Potatoes

2 tablespoons olive oil
1½ teaspoons chili powder
½ teaspoon ground cumin
Salt to taste
6 large red potatoes, each cut into 8 wedges

Preheat oven to 450° F. Line a shallow baking pan with Release Non-Stick Foil® with non-stick side toward food. Combine olive oil and seasonings in a large bowl. Add potatoes and toss to coat. Spread potatoes in a single layer

in foil-lined pan. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until potatoes are browned and crisp. Makes 6 servings.

Honey Glazed Carrots

4 cups sliced carrots (1 pound)
¼ cup balsamic vinaigrette dressing
2 tablespoons honey
2 tablespoons chopped pecans

Bring carrots, dressing and honey to boil in saucepan. Reduce heat to medium-low and cover. Simmer 15 minutes or until tender. Sprinkle with pecans. Makes 4 servings.

Grapefruit Salad

Poppy Seed Dressing

1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
¼ cup sugar
1 tablespoon poppy seeds
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon dry mustard

Salad greens

Grapefruit sections

In a small bowl combine all dressing ingredients. Chill for a least 30 minutes. Arrange salad greens and grapefruit sections on individual salad plates. Serve with chilled dressing. Yield 1¼ cups.

Key Lime Pie

1 graham cracker pie crust (6 ounces)
1 package (4-serving size) sugar free lime gelatin
¼ cup boiling water
2 containers (6 ounces each) key lime pie flavor light yogurt
1 tub (8 ounces) fat free or regular whipped topping, thawed

In large, heat resistant bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in yogurt with wire whisk. Fold in whipped topping with wooden spoon. Spread in crust. Refrigerate overnight or at least 2 hours. Refrigerate leftovers. Makes 8 servings. □



On The Water

by Jim Crosby



Do You Have a VHF-FM Marine Radio With DSC to Send MMSI Numbers?

If you understand all those acronyms and know what is being asked, you are a well-read mariner and you do not need to read any further. For those who don't, please let me explain.

Through the cooperation of the Federal Communications Commission and the Coast Guard, the old very high frequency (VHF) marine radio operating in the frequency modulation mode (FM) has been turned into a maritime mobile service identity (MMSI) radio through digital selective calling (DSC) to increase your safety on the water.

Does this mean you need to update your old marine radio? Yes, you do! The new models with the DSC feature have a one-button emergency transmit capability that sends out the vessel's unique MMSI number and, if properly connected to a GPS (Global Positioning System) or Loran receiver, the vessel's position identified by latitude and longitude. The radio continues to send the emergency signal even if the skipper is incapacitated. It allows an inexperienced user to send a goof-proof continuous distress message with the press of that single button. Aside from all these special features, it is still the same fully functional VHF radio with which we are all familiar.

Your unique MMSI number identifies you, your vessel, your home-port and all the pertinent information relating thereto.

Under an agreement with the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Coast Guard, BoatU.S. is giving boaters free MMSI ID numbers for marine radios with

Digital Selective Calling (DSC). This new radio technology makes it much easier and faster to identify and find a boat in distress.

The U.S. Coast Guard offers medium frequency and high frequency (MF/HF) radiotelephone service to mariners as part of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. This service, called digital selective calling (DSC), allows mariners to instantly send an automatically formatted distress alert to the Coast Guard or other rescue authority anywhere in the world. Digital selective calling also allows mariners to initiate or receive distress, urgency, safety and routine radiotelephone calls to or from any similarly equipped vessel or shore station, without requiring either party to be near a radio loudspeaker. DSC acts like the dial and bell of a telephone, allowing you to "direct dial" and "ring" other radios, or allow others to "ring" you, without having to listen to a speaker. After the "private" digital hail, DSC radios automatically switch to an open VHF channel for voice communications. Voice communication is carried on an active working channel chosen by the caller making the initial hail.

Because of the safety problems that lack of communications interoperability would cause between SOLAS-regulated vessels (mostly cargo ships) and other vessels (recreational boaters, commercial fishing vessels, etc.), the Coast Guard petitioned the Federal Communications Commission in 1992 to require all marine radios made or sold in the U.S. have a DSC capability.

On June 27, 1997, the FCC adopted a Report and Order requiring radios type accepted on or after June 17, 1999 to include this minimum DSC capability. New VHF and HF radiotelephones now have DSC capability.

The Coast Guard's plan to implement the USCG National Distress and Response System Modernization Project, now called "Rescue 21," which replaces the whole USCG VHF distress system is now underway. On September 24, 2002, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta announced the award of this \$612 million contract to General Dynamics Corp. Until this system is completely installed, the Coast Guard cannot reliably receive VHF DSC distress calls throughout the U.S.

If you go shopping for a new radio with this capability, you must check the specifications carefully to insure you are getting the DSC function. Radios without this function are still being sold.

Once you purchase the new radio, you can register with BoatU.S. to get your unique MMSI number. An application can be downloaded from www.boatus.com. You can also obtain information and a form by calling 800-563-1536. The application obtains extensive information about the owner and the vessel in addition to contact information for emergency use. Confirmation of your application and assignment of your number will be sent via e-mail if you provide one. □

I always appreciate your feedback, questions and/or suggestions sent to jimcrosby@aol.com.



Naturally Wild

story and illustration
by Spike Knuth

Blacknose Dace

Rhinichthys atratulus

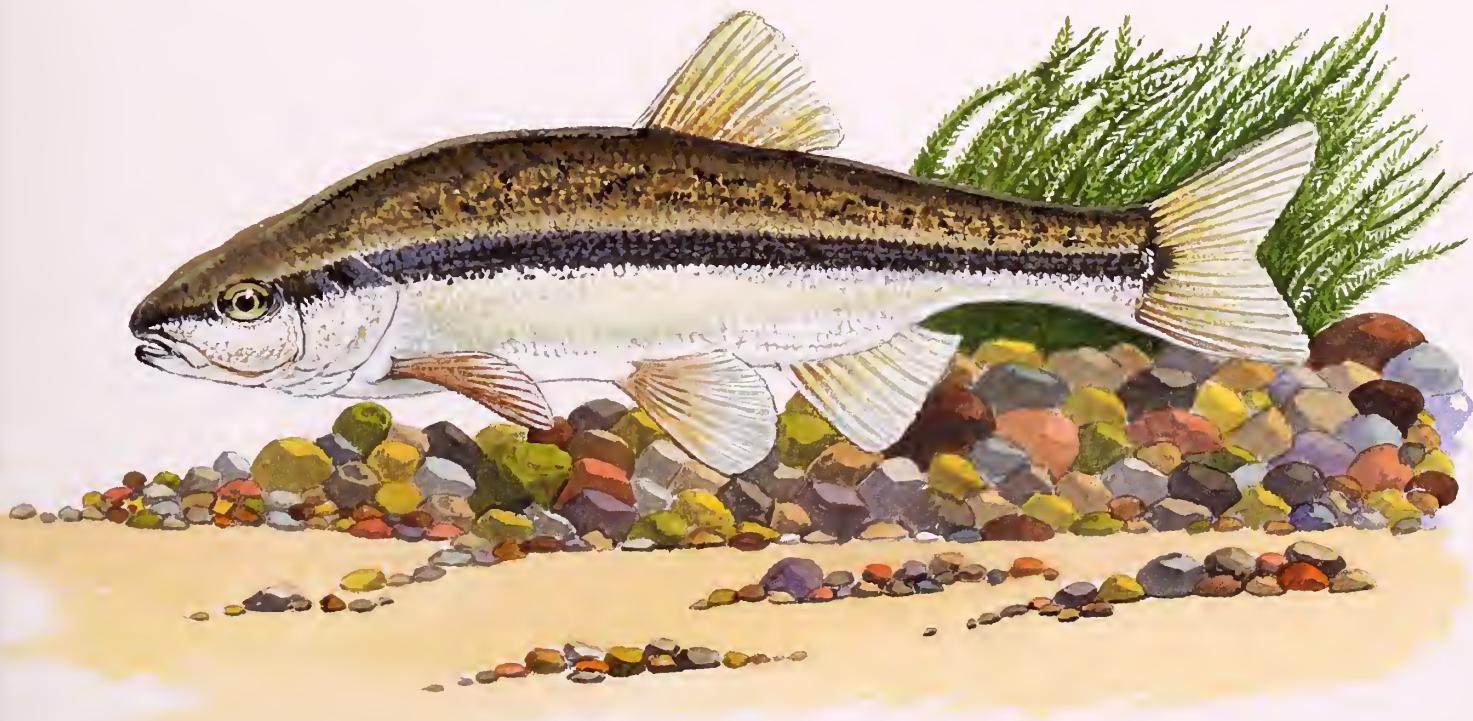
Did you ever look upon a small stream as a thing of wonder? Did you ever realize that even the smallest of streams hold many treasures that go undetected? The currents and rocks hardly seem capable of supporting fish life. There doesn't appear to be enough water to support fish. But there are deep spots and undercut banks not always visible from above. I learned this some years back when accompanying a couple Department fish biologists as they sampled a small stream with electro-fishing gear. The tiniest streams and the most unlikely places revealed a treasure of small fish and even trout up to 7 inches long.

Streams and the surrounding forests and in some cases fields, produce and host an abundance of aquatic and terrestrial life for food in-

cluding insect larvae, hatching adult insects, tiny crustaceans, mollusks, plankton and fish of all kinds from tiny minnows to foot long trout.

One such fish is the blacknose dace. There are at least three subspecies of these small fish. The one found on the Atlantic Coast is the *Rhinichthys atratulus*. It's a small, chunky fish of about 2½ inches, which is olive-green to dark brown on its back, fading to white sides and belly, with a black lateral band or stripe from its snout back through the eye to its tail. Females may have a hunch-backed appearance and breeding males show orange-colored pectoral fins and side markings. The back and upper sides will have scattered black specks. It has fleshy lips with tiny barbells on each corner of its mouth.

The blacknose inhabits tiny to medium-sized streams with gentle or steep gradients, which have rocky, gravelly or sandy bottoms. Here it is generally found in slow riffles and runs, and in quiet backwaters and small pools. Spawning begins in April and through early July or when water temperatures reach 70 degrees. They spawn over gravel bottoms in the swift, shallow riffles of water a few inches to a foot deep. Some may build a nest of small stones and some can be territorial, while others may spawn with or alongside fallfish, white suckers and creek chubs. Blacknose dace feed on a variety of small organisms; tiny insect larvae and larval fishes, phytoplankton, worms, terrestrial insects, and fish eggs, including their own. □



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